

SPECIAL DISTRICT LOCAL LAWS CODE  
TITLE 4. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT  
SUBTITLE C. DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENT, AND MANAGEMENT  
CHAPTER 3956. PORT NECHES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 3956.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the district's board of directors.
- (2) "City" means the City of Port Neches.
- (3) "County" means Jefferson County.
- (4) "Director" means a board member.
- (5) "District" means the Port Neches Improvement District.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.002. NATURE OF DISTRICT. The Port Neches Improvement District is a special district created under Section [59](#), Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.003. PURPOSE; DECLARATION OF INTENT. (a) The creation of the district is essential to accomplish the purposes of Sections [52](#) and [52-a](#), Article III, and Section [59](#), Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and other public purposes stated in this chapter. By creating the district and in authorizing the city, the county, and other political subdivisions to contract with the district, the legislature has established a program to accomplish the public purposes set out in Section [52-a](#), Article III, Texas Constitution.

(b) The creation of the district is necessary to promote, develop, encourage, and maintain employment, commerce, transportation, housing, tourism, recreation, the arts, entertainment, economic development, safety, and the public welfare in the district.

(c) This chapter and the creation of the district may not be interpreted to relieve the city or the county from providing the level of services provided as of the effective date of the Act enacting this chapter to the area in the district. The district is created to supplement and not to supplant city or county services provided in the district.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.004. FINDINGS OF BENEFIT AND PUBLIC PURPOSE.

(a) The district is created to serve a public use and benefit.

(b) All land and other property included in the district will benefit from the improvements and services to be provided by the district under powers conferred by Sections [52](#) and [52-a](#), Article III, and Section [59](#), Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and other powers granted under this chapter.

(c) The creation of the district is in the public interest and is essential to further the public purposes of:

(1) developing and diversifying the economy of the state;

(2) eliminating unemployment and underemployment; and

(3) developing or expanding transportation and commerce.

(d) The district will:

(1) promote the health, safety, and general welfare of residents, employers, potential employees, employees, visitors, and consumers in the district, and of the public;

(2) provide needed funding for the district to preserve, maintain, and enhance the economic health and vitality of the district territory as a community and business center;

(3) promote the health, safety, welfare, and enjoyment of the public by providing pedestrian ways and by landscaping and developing certain areas in the district, which are necessary for the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of scenic beauty;

(4) provide for road and recreational facilities for the district; and

(5) provide for water, wastewater, drainage, canals,

waterways, bulkheads, docks, and other similar improvement facilities for the district.

(e) Pedestrian ways along or across a street, whether at grade or above or below the surface, and street lighting, street landscaping, parking, and street art objects are parts of and necessary components of a street and are considered to be a street or road improvement.

(f) The district will not act as the agent or instrumentality of any private interest even though the district will benefit many private interests as well as the public.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.005. DISTRICT TERRITORY. (a) The district is initially composed of the territory described by Section 2 of the Act enacting this chapter.

(b) The boundaries and field notes contained in Section 2 of the Act enacting this chapter form a closure. A mistake in the field notes or in copying the field notes in the legislative process does not affect the district's:

(1) organization, existence, or validity;

(2) right to issue any type of bonds for the purposes for which the district is created or to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds;

(3) right to impose or collect an assessment or tax; or

(4) legality or operation.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.006. ELIGIBILITY FOR INCLUSION IN SPECIAL ZONES. All or any part of the area of the district is eligible to be included in:

(1) a tax increment reinvestment zone created under Chapter [311](#), Tax Code;

(2) a tax abatement reinvestment zone created under Chapter [312](#), Tax Code;

(3) an enterprise zone created under Chapter [2303](#),

Government Code; or

(4) an industrial district created under Chapter 42, Local Government Code.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.007. APPLICABILITY OF MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS LAW. Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, Chapter 375, Local Government Code, applies to the district.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.008. LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION OF CHAPTER. This chapter shall be liberally construed in conformity with the findings and purposes stated in this chapter.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

#### SUBCHAPTER B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 3956.051. GOVERNING BODY; TERMS. The district is governed by a board of seven voting directors who serve staggered terms of two years, with three or four directors' terms expiring June 1 of each year.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.052. ELIGIBILITY OF DIRECTORS. A person is eligible to serve as a voting or nonvoting director only if the person is eligible to register to vote under Section 13.001, Election Code.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.053. APPOINTMENT OF VOTING DIRECTORS. The governing body of the city, including the mayor, shall appoint the voting directors. A person is appointed if a majority of the

members of the governing body vote to appoint that person.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.054. NONVOTING DIRECTORS. The board may appoint nonvoting directors to serve at the pleasure of the voting directors.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.055. QUORUM. For purposes of determining the requirements for a quorum of the board, the following are not counted:

(1) a board position vacant for any reason, including death, resignation, or disqualification;

(2) a director who is abstaining from participation in a vote because of a conflict of interest; or

(3) a nonvoting director.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.056. COMPENSATION. A director is entitled to receive fees of office and reimbursement for actual expenses as provided by Section [49.060](#), Water Code. Sections [375.069](#) and [375.070](#), Local Government Code, do not apply to the board.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

#### SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES

Sec. 3956.101. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. The district has the powers and duties necessary to accomplish the purposes for which the district is created.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.102. IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND SERVICES. The

district may provide, design, construct, acquire, improve, relocate, operate, maintain, or finance an improvement project or service using any money available to the district, or contract with a governmental or private entity to provide, design, construct, acquire, improve, relocate, operate, maintain, or finance an improvement project or service authorized under this chapter or Chapter 375, Local Government Code.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.103. DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION POWERS. The district, using money available to the district, may exercise the powers given to a development corporation under Chapter 505, Local Government Code, including the power to own, operate, acquire, construct, lease, improve, or maintain a project under that chapter.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.104. NONPROFIT CORPORATION. (a) The board by resolution may authorize the creation of a nonprofit corporation to assist and act for the district in implementing a project or providing a service authorized by this chapter.

(b) The nonprofit corporation:

(1) has each power of and is considered to be a local government corporation created under Subchapter D, Chapter 431, Transportation Code; and

(2) may implement any project and provide any service authorized by this chapter.

(c) The board shall appoint the board of directors of the nonprofit corporation. The board of directors of the nonprofit corporation shall serve in the same manner as the board of directors of a local government corporation created under Subchapter D, Chapter 431, Transportation Code, except that a board member is not required to reside in the district.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.105. AGREEMENTS; GRANTS. (a) As provided by Chapter 375, Local Government Code, the district may make an agreement with or accept a gift, grant, or loan from any person. The district shall promptly notify the city of any gift or grant accepted by the district.

(b) The implementation of a project is a governmental function or service for the purposes of Chapter 791, Government Code.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.106. LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES. To protect the public interest, the district may contract with a qualified party, including the county or the city, to provide law enforcement services in the district for a fee.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.107. MEMBERSHIP IN CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS. The district may join and pay dues to a charitable or nonprofit organization that performs a service or provides an activity consistent with the furtherance of a district purpose.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.108. PARKING FACILITIES. (a) The district may acquire, lease as lessor or lessee, construct, develop, own, operate, and maintain parking facilities or a system of parking facilities, including lots, garages, parking terminals, or other structures or accommodations for parking motor vehicles off the streets and related appurtenances.

(b) The district's parking facilities serve the public purposes of the district and are owned, used, and held for a public purpose even if leased or operated by a private entity for a term of years.

(c) The district's parking facilities are parts of and

necessary components of a street and are considered to be a street or road improvement.

(d) The development and operation of the district's parking facilities may be considered an economic development program.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.109. ANNEXATION OF LAND. The district may annex land as provided by Subchapter J, Chapter 49, Water Code.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.110. NAVIGATION DISTRICT POWERS. The district has the powers provided by the general law of this state applicable to navigation districts created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, including Chapters 60 and 62, Water Code.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.111. APPROVAL BY CITY. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the district must obtain the approval of the city for:

(1) the issuance of bonds or any other obligations, subject to Section 3956.201 or 3956.203;

(2) the plans and specifications of an improvement project financed by bonds; and

(3) the plans and specifications of an improvement project related to the use of land owned by the city, an easement granted to or by the city, or a right-of-way of a street, road, or highway.

(b) The district may not issue bonds until the governing body of the city adopts a resolution or ordinance authorizing the issuance of the bonds.

(c) If the district obtains the approval of the city's governing body of a capital improvements budget for a period not to exceed five years, the district may finance the capital improvements and issue bonds specified in the budget without



further approval from the city.

(d) The governing body of the city:

(1) is not required to adopt a resolution or ordinance to approve plans and specifications described by Subsection (a); and

(2) may establish an administrative process to approve plans and specifications described by Subsection (a) without the involvement of the governing body.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.112. CONSENT OF CITY REQUIRED. The district may not take any of the following actions until the city has consented by ordinance or resolution to the creation of the district and to the inclusion of land in the district:

(1) hold an election under Subchapter [L](#), Chapter [375](#), Local Government Code;

(2) impose an ad valorem tax;

(3) impose an assessment;

(4) issue bonds; or

(5) enter into an agreement to reimburse the costs of facilities.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.113. NO EMINENT DOMAIN POWER. The district may not exercise the power of eminent domain.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

#### SUBCHAPTER D. GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS; ASSESSMENTS

Sec. 3956.151. DISBURSEMENTS AND TRANSFERS OF MONEY. The board by resolution shall establish the number of directors' signatures and the procedure required for a disbursement or transfer of district money.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1,

eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.152. MONEY USED FOR IMPROVEMENTS OR SERVICES. The district may acquire, construct, finance, operate, or maintain any improvement or service authorized under this chapter or Chapter 375, Local Government Code, using any money available to the district.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.153. PETITION REQUIRED FOR FINANCING SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENTS WITH ASSESSMENTS. (a) The board may not finance a service or improvement project with assessments under this chapter unless a written petition requesting that service or improvement has been filed with the board.

(b) A petition filed under Subsection (a) must be signed by the owners of a majority of the assessed value of real property in the district subject to assessment according to the most recent certified tax appraisal roll for the county.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. 2271), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.154. ASSESSMENTS; LIENS FOR ASSESSMENTS. (a) The board by resolution may impose and collect an assessment for any purpose authorized by this chapter in all or any part of the district.

(b) An assessment, a reassessment, or an assessment resulting from an addition to or correction of the assessment roll by the district, penalties and interest on an assessment or reassessment, an expense of collection, and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the district:

(1) are a first and prior lien against the property assessed;

(2) are superior to any other lien or claim other than a lien or claim for county, school district, or municipal ad valorem taxes; and

(3) are the personal liability of and a charge against

the owners of the property even if the owners are not named in the assessment proceedings.

(c) The lien is effective from the date of the board's resolution imposing the assessment until the date the assessment is paid. The board may enforce the lien in the same manner that the board may enforce an ad valorem tax lien against real property.

(d) The board may make a correction to or deletion from the assessment roll that does not increase the amount of assessment of any parcel of land without providing notice and holding a hearing in the manner required for additional assessments.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

#### SUBCHAPTER E. TAXES AND BONDS

##### Sec. 3956.201. ELECTIONS REGARDING TAXES AND BONDS.

(a) The district may issue, without an election, bonds, notes, and other obligations secured by:

- (1) revenue other than ad valorem taxes; or
- (2) contract payments described by Section [3956.203](#).

(b) The district must hold an election in the manner provided by Subchapter [L](#), Chapter [375](#), Local Government Code, to obtain voter approval before the district may impose an ad valorem tax or issue bonds payable from ad valorem taxes.

(c) Section [375.243](#), Local Government Code, does not apply to the district.

(d) All or any part of any facilities or improvements that may be acquired by a district by the issuance of its bonds may be submitted as a single proposition or as several propositions to be voted on at the election.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.202. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE TAX. (a) If authorized by a majority of the district voters voting at an election held in accordance with Section [3956.201](#), the district may impose an operation and maintenance tax on taxable property in the

district in accordance with Section [49.107](#), Water Code, for any district purpose, including to:

- (1) maintain and operate the district;
- (2) construct or acquire improvements; or
- (3) provide a service.

(b) The board shall determine the tax rate. The rate may not exceed the rate approved at the election.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.203. CONTRACT TAXES. (a) In accordance with Section [49.108](#), Water Code, the district may impose a tax other than an operation and maintenance tax and use the revenue derived from the tax to make payments under a contract after the provisions of the contract have been approved by a majority of the district voters voting at an election held for that purpose.

(b) A contract approved by the district voters may contain a provision stating that the contract may be modified or amended by the board without further voter approval.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.204. AUTHORITY TO BORROW MONEY AND TO ISSUE BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS. (a) The district may borrow money on terms determined by the board. Section [375.205](#), Local Government Code, does not apply to a loan, line of credit, or other borrowing from a bank or financial institution secured by revenue other than ad valorem taxes.

(b) The district may issue bonds, notes, or other obligations payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes, assessments, impact fees, revenue, contract payments, grants, or other district money, or any combination of those sources of money, to pay for any authorized district purpose.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.205. TAXES FOR BONDS. At the time the district

issues bonds payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes, the board shall provide for the annual imposition of a continuing direct annual ad valorem tax, without limit as to rate or amount, for each year that all or part of the bonds are outstanding as required and in the manner provided by Sections [54.601](#) and [54.602](#), Water Code.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.

Sec. 3956.206. MUNICIPALITY NOT REQUIRED TO PAY DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS. Except as provided by Section [375.263](#), Local Government Code, a municipality is not required to pay bonds, notes, or other obligations of the district.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 663 (S.B. [2271](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 12, 2017.